

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A medical instrument, comprising:

a housing having a proximal end and a distal end;

a stylet having a portion in the housing, the stylet being axially movable between a first extended position and a first retracted position, the stylet being configured such that axial movement of the stylet from the first retracted position to the first extended position causes rotation of the stylet; and

a cannula coaxially receiving the stylet and having a portion in the housing, the cannula being movable between a second extended position and a second retracted position; and

a stylet block attached to a proximal end of the stylet and mounted inside the housing, the stylet block comprising:

a first part inside the housing, the first part being moveable between a third extended position and a third retracted position; and

a second part attached to the proximal end of the stylet, the second part being rotatably engaged with the first part and being able to rotate relative to an axis of the stylet.

2-3. (Canceled)

4. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 3, wherein the housing comprises a semi-cylindrical portion defining a track configured to engage with the second part.

5. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 3, wherein the second part comprises:

a projection in contact with a track associated with the housing, the projection and track capable of cooperating to axially rotate the second part and the attached stylet when the stylet is moved between the first extended position and the first retracted position.

6. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 5, wherein the track is molded into the interior side of the housing.

7. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 5, wherein the track is configured to provide unidirectional rotation to the stylet.

8. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 5, wherein the track is configured to provide multidirectional rotation to the stylet.

9. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising:  
a stylet spring capable of moving the stylet from the first retracted position to the first extended position; and

a cannula spring capable of moving the cannula from the second retracted position to the second extended position.

10. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 1, further comprising:  
a first pivoting latch capable of retaining the stylet in a predetermined position when the stylet is in the first retracted position; and  
a second pivoting latch capable of retaining the cannula in a predetermined position when the cannula is in the second retracted position.

11. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 1 wherein the stylet comprises a notch with a sharpened leading edge.

12. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 1, wherein the stylet comprises a notch having two openings.

13. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 1, wherein the stylet comprises a notch with a ramped surface.

14. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 13, wherein the stylet further comprises an opening opposing the notch.

15. (Previously Presented) A method of using a medical instrument, the method comprising:

moving a stylet and a stylet block from a first position to a second position, the stylet block having an axially moveable first part and a second part attached to the stylet, the second part being rotatably engaged with the first part and being able to rotate relative to an axis of the stylet;

simultaneously causing rotation of the stylet along an axis of the stylet by contact between the second part of the stylet block and a housing of the medical instrument; and

moving a cannula over the stylet.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising oscillating the stylet along the axis.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising collecting a sample in a notch of the stylet.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising removing the sample from the notch by inserting an object through an opening located in the notch.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 17, further comprising removing the sample over an inclined portion of the notch.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, comprising rotating the stylet in one direction.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, comprising rotating in multiple directions.

22. (Previously Presented) A medical instrument, comprising:  
a housing having a proximal end and a distal end;  
a stylet having a portion in the housing, the stylet being movable between a first extended position and a first retracted position, the stylet being configured to rotate when moved from the first retracted position to the first extended position;  
a cannula coaxially receiving the stylet and having a portion in the housing, the cannula being movable between a second extended position and a second retracted position; and  
a stylet block, the stylet block attached to a proximal end of the stylet and mounted inside the housing, the stylet block comprising:  
a first part inside the housing, the first part being moveable between a third extended position and a third retracted position; and  
a second part attached to the proximal end of the stylet, the second part being rotatably engaged and in contact with the first part and being able to rotate relative to an axis of the stylet.

23. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 22, wherein the housing comprises a semi-cylindrical portion defining a track configured to engage with the second part.

24. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 22, wherein the second part comprises:

a projection in contact with a track associated with the housing, the projection and track capable of cooperating to axially rotate the second part and the attached stylet when the stylet block is moved between the third extended position and the third retracted position.

25. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 24, wherein the track is molded into the interior side of the housing.

26. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 24, wherein the track is configured to provide unidirectional rotation to the stylet.

27. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 24, wherein the track is configured to provide multidirectional rotation to the stylet.

28. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 22, further comprising:  
a stylet spring capable of moving the stylet from the first retracted position to the first extended position; and

a cannula spring capable of moving the cannula from the second retracted position to the second extended position.

29. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 22, further comprising:  
a first pivoting latch capable of retaining the stylet in a predetermined position when the stylet is in the first retracted position; and  
a second pivoting latch capable of retaining the cannula in a predetermined position when the cannula is in the second retracted position.

30. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 22, wherein the stylet comprises a notch with a sharpened leading edge.

31. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 22, wherein the stylus comprises a notch having two openings.

32. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 22, wherein the stylus comprises a notch with a ramped surface.

33. (Previously Presented) The instrument of claim 32, wherein the stylus further comprises an opening opposing the notch.